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JAMESTOWN . . . A Beginning

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IN REPLY REFER TO:

Dear Teacher and Students,

Welcome! We are glad that you are planning a visit to historic Jamestown Island. Jamestown today is preserved by the National Park Service and the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities because it is the site of the first permanent English settlement in North America. Much of our language, laws, and customs come from the English people.

Since Jamestown today is no longer an active city, it is difficult to think back on what Jamestown was like in the 17th Century as the first capital of Virginia. We forget that the people who lived in Jamestown were people with hopes and dreams, failures and successes just like us.

Think of yourself as a settler at Jamestown, and come back to the 17th Century. You are seeing North America and Virginia for the first time. What will you do? Who will be here? Turn the pages of our booklet "Jamestown - A Beginning" for a good idea of what you will find.

Sincerely yours,

Staff, Colonial NHP

INTRODUCTION

Read carefully the passages written by early Settlers and Explorers of Tidewater Virginia. Notice how the English language has changed from the 17th Century to the 20th Century. Many of the 'S's are written as 'F's; you will have to substitute the 'S's in the appropriate places.

Selection #1

"The land was beautiful, and one of the moft pleafant in the whole world for large and ufeul navigable rivers. Heaven and earth never agreed better to frame a place for man's habitation, were it fully manured and inhabited by induftrious people; here are mountains, hill, valleys, rivers, and brooks, all running moft pleafantly into a fair bay, compaffed (but for its mouth) with fruitful and delighfome land. There is excellent land full of flowers of divers kinds and colours, and as goodly trees as I have feen, as cedar, cyprefs, and fuch like, as well as beech, oak, walnut, faffafras, and vines in abundance, whofe grapes hang in clufters to many trees, and other trees unknown to us. There are alfo many fruits, as ftrawberries, four times bigger and better than ours in England, mulberries, rafpberries, and fruits unknown. In the rivers are great plenty of fifh of all kinds, and as for fturgeon, all the world cannot be compared to it. Alfo in this country are many great and fair meadow, low marfhes, having excellent pafture for cattle. There is alfo great ftore of deer, both red and fallow; whilft of wild animals, there are bears, foxes, otters, beavers, mufkats, and wild beafts unknown."

By John Smith, THE ADVENTURES and DISCOVERSES of Captain John Smith.

Selection #2

The soil was good and fruitful, with excellent good timber. There are also great store of vines in bigness of a man's thigh, running up to the tops of the trees, in great abundance. We also did see many squirrels, conies, blackbirds with crimson wings, and divers other fowls and birds of divers and sundry colors of crimson, watchet, yellow, green, murrey, and of divers other hues naturally, without any art using. We found store of turkey nests and many eggs.

By George Percy, Observations Gathered Out of "A Discourse of the Plantation of the Southern Colony in Virginia by the English, 1606."

Selection #3

A low level of ground about half an acre on the north side of the river is cast almost into the forme of a Triangle, and so Pallizadoed. The south side next the River...by reason the advantage of the ground doth so require, contains one hundred and forty yards: The West and East sides a hundred onely. At every Angle or corner, where the lines meete, a Bulwarke or Watchtower is raised, and in each Bulwarke a peece of Ordnance or two well mounted. To every side, a proportioned distance from the Pallisado, is a settled streete of houses, that run along, so as each line of the Angle hath his streete. In the middest is a market place, a Store house, and a Corps de guard, as likewise a pretty Cahppel ...inclosed...round with a Pallizado of Planckes and strong Posts, foure foote deepe in the ground, of yong Oakes, Walnuts, &...the principall Gate from the Towne, through the Pallizado, opens to the River...at each Bulwarke there is a Gate likewise to goe forth, and at every Gate a Demiculverin and so in the Market Place...

By William Strachey, True Reportory.

QUESTIONS:

1. List the trees and animals the settlers discovered here in Virginia.
2. Draw the fort as described by William Strachey in this True Reportory.
3. Words to Understand.

Selection #1

Navigable	-----	Deep enough for ships
Habitation	-----	Home
Manured	-----	Fertilized
Inhabited	-----	Settled
Industrious	-----	Hard Working
Compassed	-----	Covered
Delightsome	-----	Delightful
Divers	-----	Different

Selection #2

Abundance	-----	Many
Conies	-----	Rabbits
Sundry	-----	Several
Watchet	-----	Pale Blue
Murrey	-----	Dark Red
Hues	-----	Shades

Selection #3

Pallizadoed	-----	Surround with stakes
Ordnance	-----	Cannon
Corps du guard	-----	Guard house
Demiculverin	-----	17th Century cannon

Map Exercise of Tidewater Virginia

Locate and place these Geographical names on the map near the numbers.

Jamestown Island

James River

Jamestown Fort 1609

Chesapeake Bay

Cape Henry

York River

Cape Charles

Atlantic Ocean

Eastern Shore

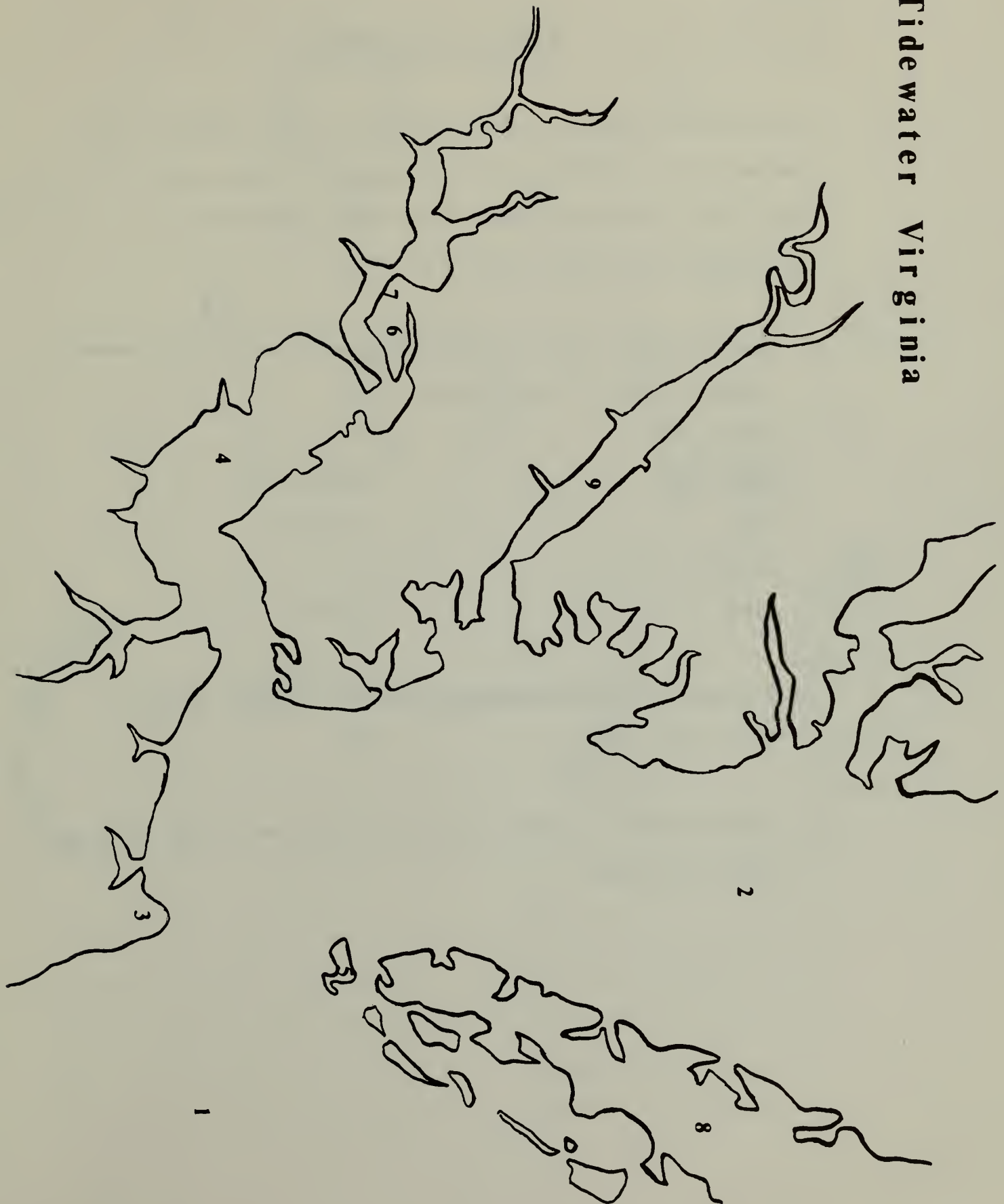
Your School

(if found on this area map)

Look in your school library at examples of old maps - decorate your map as you think a 17th Century settler would have drawn his map of Virginia.

Decide why the settlers chose Jamestown Island as a place to begin their settlement instead of an area closer to the Atlantic Ocean.

Tide water Virginia



ARTIFACTS OR "OLD THINGS"

History records events of past civilizations for our knowledge. Sometimes it is hard to find written documents telling us how people lived. Therefore objects people leave behind tell us a fascinating story of their day to day lives.

1. Look carefully at the 10 artifacts and decide what they represent. Use the following list as a guide.

Pottery Jug

Pile Driver

Horse Shoe

Candle Stick

Key

Fish-Gig

Scissors

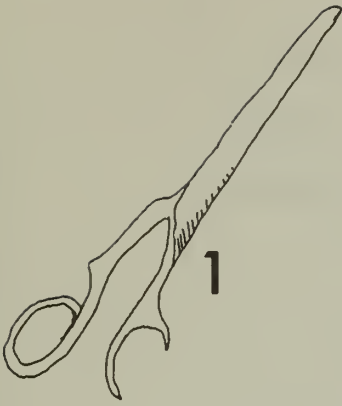
Spur

Ladle

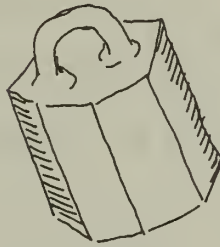
Carpenter's Tools

2. How would 17th Century Jamestown Settlers use these objects in their daily lives?
3. Draw 20th Century objects that would closely match these 17th Century Artifacts.

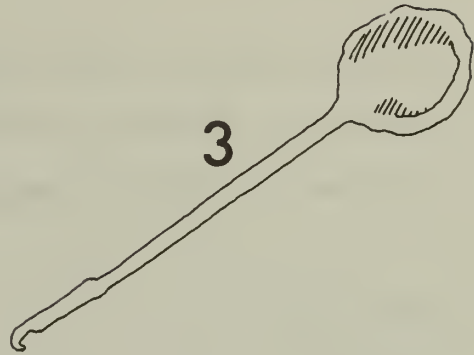
ARTIFACTS OF JAMESTOWN



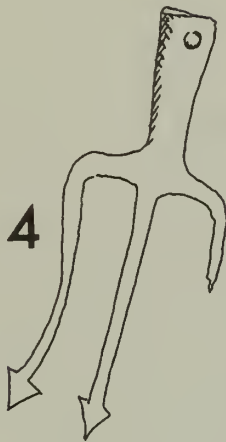
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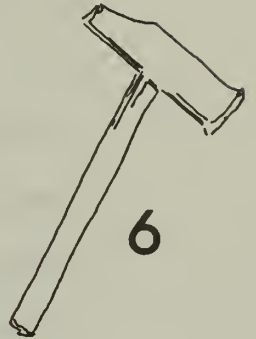
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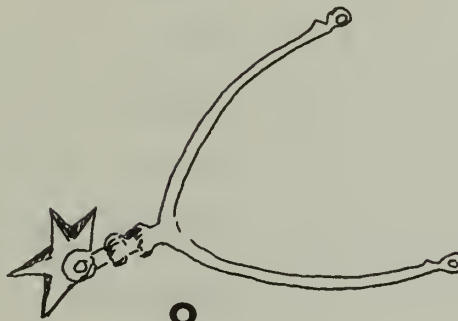
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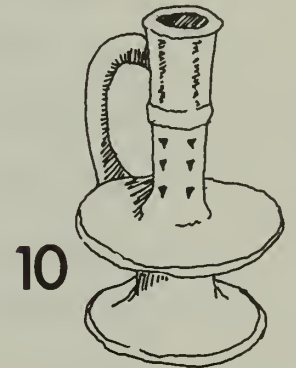
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8



9



10

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

The words below are hidden backwards, forwards, diagonally and vertically in the puzzle found on the next page. See if you can find them all: Why are they important to your study of Jamestown?

ARCHEOLOGIST	JOHN SMITH
ARTIFACT	KING JAMES
BERKELEY	MARSHES
BRICKS	MOSQUITO
CAPE HENRY	NATHANIEL BACON
CANNON	PERMANENT
CHANCO	POCAHONTAS
CHURCH	POWHATAN
CORN	SILK
DISCOVERY	SLAVES
DISEASE	SPAIN
ENGLAND	STARVING TIME
FORT	STATEHOUSE
GENTLEMEN	SUSAN CONSTANT
GLASS	TAR
GODSPEED	TOBACCO
GOLD	TRIANGLE
HOUSE OF BURGESSES	VA COMPANY OF LONDON
INDIANS	VIRGINIA
JAMES RIVER	WINE MAKING
JAMESTOWN	WOMEN
JOHN ROLFE	

K I N G J A M E S C Y R E V I R S E M A J N Y
S E S L A V E S E N G L A N D S T C W I P O V
U W V U M A S T R G N Z V L V I C O R N E C A
S C F G E R D E R V B O O K Q U S G H K R A C
A S T M S T A R V I N G T I M E V E R T M B O
N W R A T I W N B R I C K S T Y P U A C A L M
C J E R O F O G T G L A S S T H I N G S N E P
O O O S W A M T W I N E M A K I N G T Y E I A
N H C H N C E S B N E M E L T N E G W X N N N
S N A E N T N T P I G H C S M T A I R S T A Y
T R P S I S I L K A R C H E O L O G I S T H O
A O E R T H M W N K I G U S S G T H N F O T F
N L H E T H P I A T C N R W Q U I T D E B A L
T F E S N F O R T E D B C G U N B Y I T A N O
D E N U G W C G A H E T H W I E E X A G C O N
E T R O T S A E H T H E R E T W R N N V C I D
E O Y H T W H E W C H A N C O G K P S L O R O
P E D E P T O N O B E F O R E S E C A N N O N
S I H T A I N F P S O T H A T T L A I D T O T
D F D A T B T A R T R I A N G L E Q U O T E S
O B I T G B A C D I S C O V E R Y T H A T I S
G E R S F G S H O U S E O F B U R G E S S E S

BOOKS TO READ FOR FUN

The following books were written by early settlers, so read them to see Jamestown and our early history from their eyes.

1. Percy, George. Observations Gathered Out of "A Discourse of the Plantation of the Southern Colony in Virginia by the English, 1606," University Press of Virginia, Charlottesville, 1967.
2. Smith, John. The Adventures and Discourses of Captain John Smith. Reissued by Singing Trees Press Book Tower, Detroit, 1969.

For Present Day Information About Jamestown Read:

1. Fishwick, Marshall W. Jamestown--First English Colony. American Heritage Publishing Co., Inc., New York. 1965.
2. Proلمان, Marilyn. The Story of Jamestown. Childrens Press, Chicago, 1973.

Conclusion:

After finishing the exercise in this booklet we hope you are ready to visit historic Jamestown Island and learn more about its history from your Park Guide. We look forward to seeing you soon.